

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 NSC-10 RSR-01 COME-00 EB-11

LAB-06 SIL-01 CU-04 SS-15 HEW-08 AID-20 COA-02 DOTE-00

CG-00 /118 W

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R 251305 Z JUN 73

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1528

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF WEEKEND PRESS

REF: A) ANKARA 5033 B) THESSALONIKI 0380

1. JULY 29 REFERENDUM: THESSALONIKI WEEKEND PRESS
DOMINATED BY SPECULATION BASED ON ATHENS REPORTS RE FORTH-
COMING REFERENDUM. IN ONLY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNOR
IOANNIS ANASTASSOPOULOS SEIZED OPPORTUNITY OF JUNE 22
MEETING OF NORTHERN GREEK RAILWAY WORKERS TO POLITICIZE
FOR GOVERNMENT POSITION. ANASTASSOPOULOS PREDICTED THAT PEOPLE
WILL GIVE PROOF OF CONFIDENCE IN PM PAPADOPOULOS WITH
"CERTAIN YES" ON JULY 29. ONLY PAPADOPOULOS, HE CLAIMED,
CAN BE RELIED ON TO CARRY OUT MANDATE OF PEOPLE. FINAL
RESOLUTION, ADOPTED BY SOME 500 RAILWAY WORKERS PRESENT
STRONGLY PRAISED PM.

COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME THAT SENIOR OFFICIAL HERE HAS
USED SUCH PLATFORM TO CAMPAIGN ON REFERENDUM. SPEAKING TO
AUDIENCE OF TEACHERS IN THESSALONIKI JUNE 21 MIN EDUCATION GANDONAS
AVOIDED POLITICAL AREA AND LIMITED REMARKS TO REVIEW OF EDUCATIONAL
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REFORM, INCLUDING ANNOUNCEMENT OF 8- YEAR COMPULSORY EDUCATION RATHER THAN PREVIOUS 6.

2. STRIKE HALTS KAVALA FISHING INDUSTRY: PAPERS OF JUNE 24 CARRIED BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT ON CONTINUING STRIKE IN KAVALA BY 300 FISHERMEN FOR SIGNATURE OF COLLECTIVE WAGE AGREEMENT AND SHARE IN GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY TO BOAT OWNERS. AT MEETING JUNE 22 WITH PRESIDENT OF KAVALA LABOR CENTER AND OTHER OFFICIALS, WORKERS VOTED TO CONTINUE STRIKE, WHICH BEGAN JUNE 20, UNTIL DEMANDS MET. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT SOME INDIVIDUAL BOAT OWNERS HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO SPLIT GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY, UNDER THREAT THAT FISHERMEN WILL SHIFT TO CONSTRUCTION TRADES.

COMMENT:: STRIKE AFFECTS ONLY SMALL SEGMENT OF KAVALA WORKFORCE, BUT OCCURS AT HEIGHT OF FISHING SEASON. ONLY 2-3 OF TOTAL 40- BOAT FLEET ARE REPORTEDLY NOW OPERATING. WE BELIEVE THIS IS ONE OF FEW, IF NOT ONLY, ORGANIZED STRIKES IN NORTHERN GREECE SINCE 1967. KAVALA NOMARCH PAPAMATTHEOU AND HARBOR MASTER TZAVELAS ARE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENT CLOSELY BUT, ACCORDING TO " THESSALONIKI" OF JUNE 25, HAVE NOT YET FOUND SOLUTION.

3. EDITORIAL ON GREEK- TURKISH TALKS: MEETING OF ALTERNATE FONMIN CAVALIERATOS AND TURKISH FONMIN BUYULKEN IN COPENHAGEN (REF A) CONTINUE TO RECEIVE FRONTPAGE TREATMENT OVER WEEKEND. IN ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT, CHIEF EDITOR ELEIAS KYROU OF CONSERVATIVE " ELLINIKOS VORRAS" WRITES ON JUNE 24 THAT BAYULKEN STATEMENTS ARE CONSTRUCTIVE STEP IN INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES, BUT REVERTS TO ISSUE OF MUSLIMS IN THRACE AND GREEKS IN ISTANBUL FOR MAJOR PART OF EDITORIAL. KYROU REITERATES PREVIOUS LINE THAT MUSLIMS OF THRACE PROSPERING WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION WHILE GREEK MINORITY IN ISTANBUL, IMVROS AND TENEDOS HAS DWINDLED FROM 160,000 IN 1923 TO 17,000 AT PRESENT AS RESULT OF " PERSECUTION AND ALL KINDS OF OPPRESSION". EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH HOPE THAT BAYULKEN- CAVALIERATOS TALKS DEALT WITH " RESTORATION OF BRUTALLY VIOLATED RIGHTS OF GREEK MINORITY AND RETURN OF OUSTED GREEKS TO ISTANBUL AND IMVROS".

4. EPOK RALLIES IN NORTHERN GREECE: SERIES OF EPOK MEETINGS IN NORTHERN GREECE (REF B) CONTINUING WITH NEXT TO BE HELD AT KILKIS JULY 1 WITH XYDOPOULOS AGAIN AS MAIN SPEAKER. MEETING WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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BE ORGANIZED AND INTRODUCED BY EPOK PRESIDENT IN KILIS, HERACLIS PATTAKOS, LOCAL LAWYER AND COUSIN OF VICE PRESIDENT.

5. CYPRIOT STUDENT UNION: " ELLINIKOS VORRAS" OF JUNE 24 BRIEFLY NOTES MEETING PREVIOUS DAY OF 300 CYPRIOT STUDENTS AT THESSALONIKI UNIVERSITY. STUDENTS, STYLED AS NATIONAL UNION OF CYPRIOT STUDENTS (EFEK), ELECTED NEW OFFICERS AND

ISSUED STATEMENT THAT CYPRIOT STUDENTS HERE STRONGLY FAVOR
ENOSIS AND ARE " DECIDED TO FIGHT FOR THESE IDEALS".

COMMENT: GROUP IS INDEPENDENT OF GOVERNMENT- SPONSORED FEAP
ORGANIZATION, BUT AFFILIATED WITH SIMILAR CYPRIOT STUDENT
GROUPS IN ATHENS AND CYPRUS. LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES PLAN TO
ATTEND ANNUAL CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN CYPRUS DURING AUGUST.
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